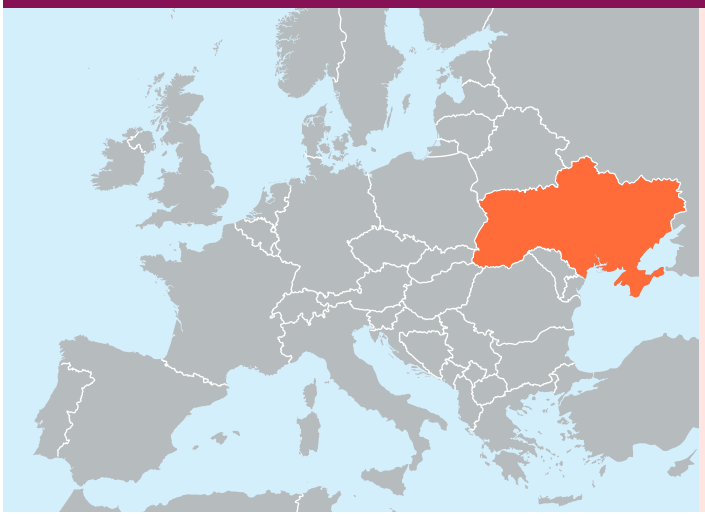
Ukraine Fact Sheet

seva.org
TRANSFORMING LIVES BY RESTORING SIGHT

SEVA'S WORK AT A GLANCE: In country since 2017 | Partners: 2



Country Overview

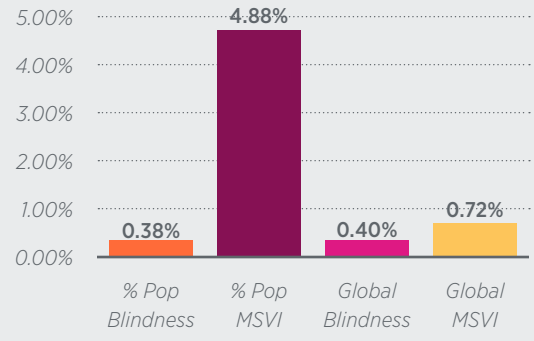
- Ukraine spans 233,062 square miles
- Population: 43.7 million people
- 2021-22 Human Development Index Ranking: 77 of 191 countries[1]

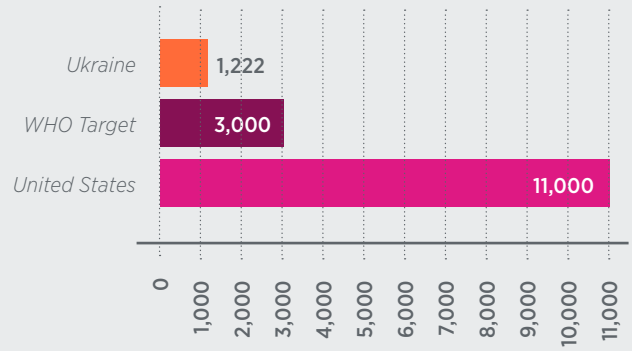
Scope of Eye Care Needs[2]

- 0.38% of Ukraine's population is blind (170,000), as compared to 0.19% in the United States
- 4.88% of the population has moderate to severe vision impairment or MSVI (2,136,001), as compared to 2.02% in the United States
- 0.40% of global blindness
- 0.72% of global MSVI

Nationwide Eye Care Response

- Ukraine's Cataract Surgical Rate (CSR) was 1,222 surgeries per million in 2006, as compared to the US CSR of 11,000.
- 66.3 ophthalmologists per million people in 2015 (2,973 total)
- No data is currently available for optometrists and allied ophthalmic personnel





1 *2021-22 UNDP Human Development Report: https://hdr.undp.org/system/files/documents/global-report-document/hdr2021-22pdf_1.pdf*
2 *Unless otherwise noted, all country sight statistics from IAPB Vision Atlas: http://atlas.iapb.org/global-action-plan/gap-indicators/*

Seva's Approach in Ukraine

Ukraine has the second largest HIV/AIDS epidemic in Estern Europe and Central Asia. In 2019, 250,000 people were living wtih HIV in Ukraine, up from 120,000 in 2010. With HIV infection comes the possibility of CMV retinitis, which can cause blindness if left untreated. Many people living with HIV/AIDS risk going blind from CMV retinitis because of the stigma that surrounds the disease and the lack of access to doctors with appropriate eye care training.

Seva is addressing this issue by providing training to AIDS clinicians and ophthalmologists on how to diagnose and treat CMV retinitis. In July 2017, Seva's AIDS Eye Initiative Medical Director, Dr. David Heiden trained six ophthalmologists, providing in-depth and hands-on lessons in diagnosing and treating CMV retinitis. By the end of the session, participating ophthalmologists indicated they had a high level of confidence in their ability to identify this debilitating condition. Since then, Seva continues to work with the doctors as they screen for CMV Retinitis and treat patients. We currently collaborate with three infectious disease hospitals. We have also piloted Seva's Vistaro camera with one of the hospitals.

Seva also began working with Eye Samaritan International to mitigate and prevent Retinopathy of Prematurity, the leading cause of blindness for babies in Ukraine. In partnership with Seva, ESI is working to create a center of excellence to treat ROP at the Filatov Institute of Eye Diseases and Tissue Therapy in Odessa, Ukraine by augmenting an established institution with additional equipment, training, financial support and access to specialized expertise.

After extensive delays due to the fighting and supply chain issues, this year Seva and ESI delivered crucial equipment that allows the hospitals to better treat babies diagnosed with ROP.

Resources:

Seva's Work to Prevent Avoidable Blindness in Ukraine

EYE CARE PERSONNEL

66.3

Ophthalmologists per million people

= 10 million people

Impact of the war in Ukraine[1]

Fighting and hostilities continue in Ukraine since the war escalated in February 2022 directly impacting more than 11 million people and affecting the entire country. Despite the ongoing conflict, Seva's partners have continued to provide care as they are able, screening newborn babies for ROP and examining the eyes of people living with HIV and AIDS for sight and life-threatening diseases.

SPOTLIGHT ON REACHING CHILDREN

Aivazovi Lev was born preterm at 27 weeks gestation and at four weeks of age he had severe respiratory distress syndrome. His parents feared that Retinopathy of prematurity (ROP) would cause permanent blindness. At eights week old Aivazovi was screened at Filatov Eye Institute in Odessa, Ukraine. From his screening it was identified that indeed ROP had developed to zone 1 ROP (severe type) which has a high risk of causing permanent and lifelong blindness. In September of 2020 Aivazovi had laser surgery which resulted in the resolution of the retinopathy of prematurity. From his post operative exams it was determined that he will be able to have functionally useful vision and engage in most normal activities as a result of the laser treatment.

1 *UNOCHA: https://reports.unocha.org/en/country/ukraine*

UKRAINE FACT SHEET

IMPACT (FY 2022-2023)*

308
People receiving services

209
Children Screened

8
Children receiving surgery

* *Numbers based on reports received*